

Ft. Stevens Named After Ancestor of Mrs. Hall



George Dowling Love

In the previous installments, it was shown how Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, facing indictment for the murder of her preacher-husband, the Rev. E. W. Hall, and his affinity, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, has the dolorous distinction of being the most distinguished woman, from the standpoint of lineage, ever to face a murder charge.

Mrs. Hall's family tree was traced back to the Norman conquerors, then to Erasmus Stevens, the first of his clan to come to the colonies in the 17th century, then to Ebenezer Stevens, hero of the Boston tea party and commanding officer during the Revolutionary War.

Further details of Mrs. Hall's noble ancestors are revealed today.

By GEORGE DOWLING LOVE

Having proven efficient in every command, Ebenezer Stevens, in 1798, was appointed lieutenant-colonel commandant of the artillery of the city and county of New York. The following year, he was made a brigadier-general by brevet, and in 1800 he was made a full brigadier-general and was commissary of military stores from August, 1798, to August, 1801.

When the artillery of the state was erected into a division of three brigades, March 27, 1807, he was appointed major-general of the division.

Given Command in 1812

During the War of 1812, when there were fears of an attack by the British fleet on New York city, the artillery division was mustered into service of the United States with Major-Gen. Stevens in command.

Among the numerous fortifications which were hastily thrown up around New York city to protect the metropolis from the British warships was a fort at Hallett's Point named Fort Stevens. On Lawrence Hill, to the south-



Stevens Family Coat of Arms

east of Fort Stevens, and commanding it, was a strong stone tower, built with six sides and two loopholes, and on the top were placed several heavy cannons.

Historian's Mention

Guernsey's "New York City During the War of 1812" says:—

"Work had been commenced in June, 1814, and was in progress for the building of a fort at Hallett's Point on the Long Island side of Hell Gate. The corner stone for it was laid on the 14th of July, and it was called Fort Stevens, in honor of Major Gen. Ebenezer Stevens of the New York State Militia Artillery."

Further delving into the early history of Major-Gen. Stevens reveals him as a business man of more than average ability and he it was who founded the Stevens family fortune. He carried on an extensive commerce with foreign ports, especially with France, and was an agent of the United States War Department at different times.

Despite his many duties, both military and business, Gen. Stevens took an active part in public affairs in New York. He was a member of the Assembly in 1800 and a member of the Board of Aldermen in 1802.

Tammany Founder

He was one of the founders of the Tammany Society in 1789, a founder of the New England Society in 1805, being its president from 1817 until his death; a member and vice-president of the New York Society of the Cincinnati from 1804 to 1823.

His New York city residence was 42 Warren St. He had a summer residence at Hallett's Cove, now Astoria.

Lafayette presented him his portrait, which he left to the New York Historical Society.

In 1822 he gave his son, Byram

K. Stevens, a letter of introduction to Lafayette, who wrote him:—
"Paris, July 13, 1822.

"Col. Stevens, New York.

"My dear Stevens:—

"I seldom have felt so great a gratification as when I discovered it was your son whom I took by the hand and with whom I could talk of our old times and your actual situation. Those American times have been the happiest of my public life; the remembrance of my brotherly friends of the army do most lively vibrate in my heart.

"I was therefore highly pleased to hear of you and very affectionately interested by the particulars which I received from your worthy son. What I have seen of him has appeared to me an object of sincere congratulation to you.

"Receive them, my dear sir, as heartily as they are offered, and believe me,

"Your affectionate friend,

"LAFAYETTE."

Other Ancestors

Lucretia (Ledyard) Sands, who became the second wife of Ebenezer Stevens, was the half sister of Col. William Ledyard, son of John Ledyard.

As a lieutenant-colonel, William Ledyard was in command of Fort Griswold, Conn., on September 6, 1781.

It is recorded that, when the British stormed the hill and rushed into the fort, the major commanding the British troops shouted: "Who is in command here?"

Seeing his men outnumbered, and desiring to avoid a heavy loss of life, Col. Ledyard replied: "I was, sir, but you are now."

For reply, the British officer ran

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Hundreds of Hall Case Solutions Deluge Shylock

By SHYLOCK HOMES

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Every day something old is sprung by the investigators into the Hall-Mills tragedy. There is little new that I can notice that has been uncovered since the "pig woman" first told her story of what she saw at the scene of the crime, with the exception of admitting she told Jimmy Mills, the husband of the murdered woman, all she knew, three days after the bodies were found beneath the crabapple tree.

Mills, strange to relate, kept silent about this call. Which my friend Watson characterizes as being "verra mysterious."



Assistant Attorney General Alexander Simpson is sanguine of results and does not hesitate to state he has established a prima-facie case against the three persons charged with the four-year-old crime. In other words he believes he has evidence sufficient in law to raise a presumption of fact against Mrs. Hall, Willie Stevens and Henry de la Bruyere Carpenter.

The \$1,000 in cash prizes I am offering for the correct solutions of the baffling crime has certainly started an independent investigation among The GRAPHIC readers and the solutions that are pouring in to the editorial rooms of The GRAPHIC have reached such enormous proportions that I am inclined to believe everybody who uses a thinking cap is making some attempt to solve the murder.

Curtis Steck of East Rutherford,

N. J., states: "The persons who committed this murder are and dear to Mrs. Hall."

Jane Gibson Suspected

Mrs. Melanie G. Ring, 565 West 190th St., writes: "The story of Mrs. Jane Gibson would have been the solution four years ago."

Mrs. F. D. Kelly of 1274 Avenue A writes: "Ask the 'pig woman' where she got that child."

F. Michel, 485 East 188th St., writes: "With the arrest of Willie Stevens the solution is found."

Dr. H. W. Grathwohl of 45 East 55th St., writes: "Who had such a knife as was used in the crime?"

B. D. McKernon, 528 East 150th St., writes: "Later developments will prove that the authorities have

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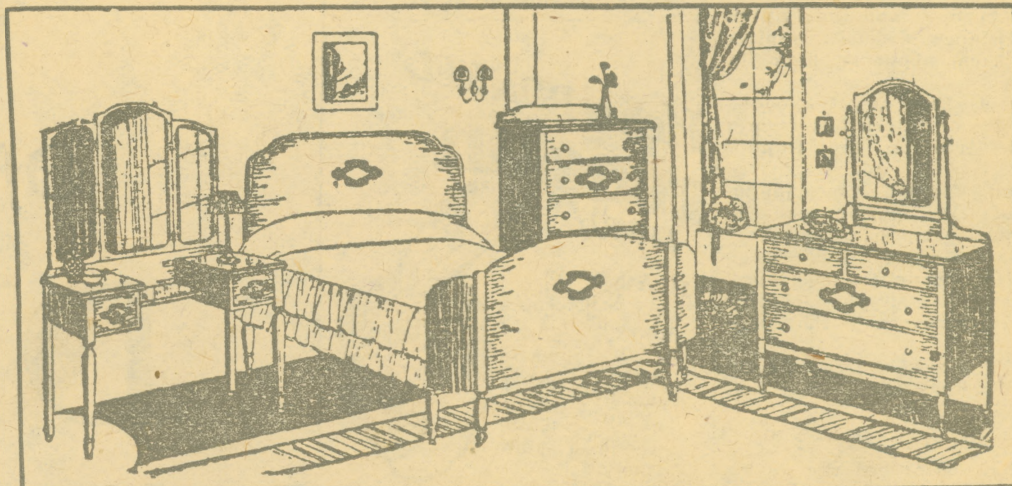
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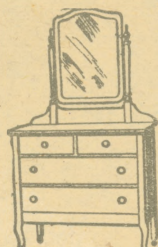
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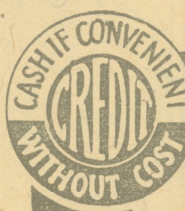
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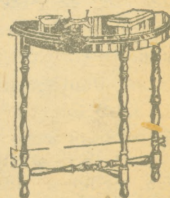
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